

OPINION 1606

Semioptera wallacii Gray, 1859 (Aves, PARADISAEIDAE): conserved as the correct spelling of the generic and specific names

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the spelling of both the generic and specific names *Semioptera wallacii* Gray, 1859 are hereby ruled to be correct, despite their publication in the spelling *Semeioptera Wallacei*.

(2) The name *Semioptera* Gray, 1859 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Semioptera wallacii* Gray, 1859, spelling conserved in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *wallacii* Gray, 1859, as published in the combination *Paradisaea* (*Semeioptera*) *Wallacei* (specific name of the type species of *Semioptera* Gray, 1859, spelling conserved in (1) above), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(4) The name *Semeioptera* Gray, 1859 is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology (ruled in (1) above to be an incorrect original spelling of *Semioptera* Gray, 1859).

(5) The name *wallacei* Gray, 1859, as published in the combination *Paradisaea* (*Semeioptera*) *Wallacei*, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology (ruled in (1) above to be an incorrect original spelling of *wallacii* Gray, 1859).

History of Case 2441

An application for the conservation of the spelling of *Semioptera wallacii* Gray, 1859 (Wallace's Standard Wing Bird of Paradise) was received from Ms M. LeCroy (*American Museum of Natural History, New York, U.S.A.*) on 3 May 1983 and published in BZN 45: 212–213 (September 1988). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals. An opposing comment from Jiří Mlíkovský (*Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Praha*), together with a reply by the author of the application and Walter J. Bock (*Columbia University, New York, U.S.A.*), was published in BZN 46: 49–50 (March 1989).

The original report in *The Literary Gazette* (March 1859) has been examined (cf. para. 2 of the application). The spelling *Semeioptera Wallacei* appeared (p. 406) in a Zoological Society meeting report which stated '... Mr G.R. Gray proposed the subgeneric name *Semeioptera*, and he further added the provisional specific name of *Wallacei*, in commemoration of the indefatigable energy [of] Mr Wallace...'. The report included a description of the bird, used by Gray in proposing the names. Authorship of these names is thus to be attributed to Gray.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 December 1989 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 45: 212–213. At the close of the voting period on 1 March 1990 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 25: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis, Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza,

Minelli, Mroczkowski (in part), Nielsen, Nye (in part), Ride, Savage, Schuster (in part), Thompson, Trjapitzin, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 2: Kabata and Lehtinen.

No vote was received from Starobogatov.

Lehtinen, Mroczkowski, Nye and Schuster accepted the spelling *Semioptera*, but considered that *wallacei* should be retained as being correct for reasons of both priority and derivation. Holthuis commented that the names *Semeioptera* and *wallacei* could have been suppressed. Ride said the Commission should have been asked to choose between suppression and the course put forward on the voting papers, namely to rule that the *Literary Gazette* names were incorrect original spellings. Thompson said that the Commission could have ruled that *The Literary Gazette* was not a publication in the sense of the Code.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and Official Indexes by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

Semeioptera Gray, 1859, *Literary Gazette* (new series), 39: 406 (an incorrect original spelling of *Semioptera*).

Semioptera Gray, 1859, *Literary Gazette* (new series), 39: 406 (incorrectly spelled as *Semeioptera*).

wallacei, *Paradisaea* (*Semeioptera*), Gray, 1859, *Literary Gazette* (new series), 39: 406 (an incorrect original spelling of *wallacii*).

wallacii, *Paradisaea* (*Semioptera*), Gray, 1859, *Literary Gazette* (new series), 39: 406 (incorrectly spelled as *wallacei*).